

# 87th Annual Meeting 2023

June 24, 2023



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## Annual Meeting 2023



## Agenda, June 24, 2023, Annual Meeting

Opening	
Welcome Statement	Marty Burgess, President
Reading	Members
Credentials Report	Marty Burgess, Clerk, President
Presentation of the Agenda*	Marty Burgess, President
Centering Prayer	Roberta Altamari Board Member
Memorial	Roberta Altamari Board Member
Approval of Minutes 2022 Annual Meeting	Marty Burgess, Clerk and President
Treasurer's Report	Douglas Atkins, Treasurer
President's Report	Marty Burgess, President
Executive Director's Report	Cathy Stackpole, Executive Director
By-Laws Updates	Ron Willet, Vice President
Acknowledgement of Past Board Members	Marty Burgess, President
Retiring Board Members and Nominating Committee Members Acknowledgement	Marty Burgess, President
Nominating Committee Report	Paul Provencher, Chair Nominating Committee
Induction of Members, Board and Officers	Marty Burgess, President
Awards	Marty Burgess, President
Vote to Adjourn	Marty Burgess, President
Closing	Song: Sisters Now Our Meeting is Over

*\*Confined by by-laws of Ferry Beach*

## Memorials

*We surround their families and friends with love for those who passed  
in 2022.*

And all others of the Ferry Beach community who made their transition in  
this last year and who will always remain in our hearts.

*"I brought my spirit to the sea."*

*"May the song of our ancestors circle down from heaven a great spiral of sound to  
wrap you in the embrace of your clan, of all those who have seen the stars as you  
have. " Steven Charleston*

## MINUTES of ANNUAL MEETING - June 25, 2022

Commenced 1:31p.m., Rowland Hall Gayla Theater, Minutes recorded by Board Secy. Ron Willett

\* **Opening:** Board of Directors President Marty Burgess offered an opening statement welcoming attendees to the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting at Ferry Beach, with comments centered on the theme of Resilience for this Meeting as well as the summer of 2022 at Ferry Beach.

\* **Readings:** Various Association members in attendance read inspirational passages related to the theme of Resilience.

\* **Credentials Report:** Marty declared that a quorum of members in good standing for an Annual Meeting pursuant to the Association's Bylaws has been reached with the number of attending members (42) in attendance and registered.

\* **Presentation of the Agenda:** Marty noted that the Meeting Agenda is in the packet distributed to all attendees and asked for any corrections or additions. There being none, he declared the Agenda as accepted.

**Centering Meditation:** Doug Edwards of the Association's Board of Directors offered words of focus and contemplation that invoked the unique spiritual traditions of Ferry Beach.

\* **Memorials:** Read the names, printed in the Meeting handout, of the Ferry Beach members who deceased during the past year and concluded with the reading of verse. The following names were added by attendees:

\* **Approval of Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting:** Ron Willett

The Minutes having been distributed to all attendees, Ron stated that he would entertain a motion to accept the Minutes as submitted. Doug Atkins so moved, and the motion was duly seconded. Ron asked if there were any questions or corrections proposed. **There being none, Ron called for a vote on the motion, which was approved unanimously.**

\* **Treasurer's report:** Board Treasurer Doug Atkins offered comments on a financial summary report, covering 2015 through 2021, that was projected onto a screen at the front of the meeting room, a copy of which was included in the printed materials in the handout to attendees.

- Doug noted key points, including increases necessitated by the return to near-normal operations in 2021 following pandemic-related reductions.
- He noted the recent sharp increase in food costs and the projection for more increases to come.
- Doug praised the efforts of staff in accomplishing workloads and projects and noted the good fortune of the Association in having high-quality staff, and he underscored the importance of maintaining and growing funding levels to enable the retention of good staff.

**\* President's report:** Marty's report, printed in the meeting handout doc, noted the extreme challenges of the past year merging with the moments of celebration for survival and resilience. He offered high praise for staff, especially Exec. Director Cathy Stackpole now in her 10<sup>th</sup> year at the helm. Marty emphasized that every member is of vital importance and every assist is golden. As the Association makes progress on its financial and physical maintenance challenges, we are growing our involvement in the local community and beach preservation efforts. Marty stressed that it is up to each of us to keep the Association on a forward and upward track to make Universal Love a universal reality and ensure that Ferry Beach remains a safe place to fly free and explore art, education, spirituality, sustainability, personal growth, and justice and action.

**\*Executive Director's report:** Cathy Stackpole

Cathy reported on various aspect of operations over the past year, noting that Resilience emerged as the theme of summer 2022 from the tenacity and energy necessary for staff and volunteers to survive 2020-2021. She offered comments on her vision of Ferry Beach as a place of refuge for a broad variety of issues to be explored by a widely-diverse membership and population of visitors. She observed that current social and political events underscore the world's need for enterprises like Ferry where people are working to awaken hearts and minds to the spirit of universal love. Cathy emphasized that as today's Ferry Beachers we inherit from our founders and predecessors a rich heritage of principles and values that call us into action around this need and which equip us uniquely to do this work. She proposes that we remain united in efforts to ensure the sustainability and vitality of Ferry Beach with our heritage and mission always in mind. She elaborated on some operational points

- 2021: Summer revenue was 80% of normal" with total lost revenue 2020 through today (June 23, 2022) of about \$1,800,000.
- Staffing costs were down in 2021 due to lack of J-1 visa summer workers and a widespread shortage of hourly workers, with a skeletal crew leading operations with volunteers and some local retirees.
- Weekend retreat numbers, which ceased during 2020, did not recover in 2021 and prospects for those numbers to increase are not encouraging since many churches are still not meeting in person.
- Smaller groups are showing more interest in Ferry Beach as we also approach NPOs and training programs.
- Shoreline preservation and restoration: Cathy reported on Ferry Beach participation with the city of Saco, the Shoreline Commission and the Save Our Shores group, hosting a conference on campus in September.
- Cathy reported progress during the past year in engaging more community partners such as Age Friendly Saco, two Rotary clubs, the City of Saco, and local banks. Cathy concluded by noting that the continuation of Covid-19 surges has been and continues as a major challenge.

**\* Nominating Committee report:** Kathleen Dziadzio Director and Board of Directors Liaison to the Committee:

Kathleen read the Nominating Committee report that she is entering into the record for this meeting, which included the following points:

The Committee consists of the following members: Ruth Rempt, Ken Andersen, Phil Kinsler, Kate Baldwin and Erin Kelley. Changes in Board of Directors membership and nominations:

The terms of Vice President Caitlin Peale Sloan and Director Kathleen Dziadzio are expiring and they are not continuing for another term.

The term of Director Richard Plumb is expiring but Richard wishes to continue service on the Board and the Committee is nominating him for a new three-year term.

Director Kristal Kallenberg has resigned from the Board of Directors.

With the departure of Caitlin from the Board, the position of Vice President is vacated and current Board Secretary Ron Willett has agreed to nomination for the position of Vice President for a three-year term.

As Ron vacates the position of Board Secretary, Board member Doug Edwards has agreed to nomination for the position of Secretary for a three-year term.

The Nominating Committee nominates active Ferry Beach member Phil Kinsler for a new three-year position on the Board.

At the conclusion of the Report, **it was moved and duly seconded to accept the Report and to elect the Directors and Officers nominated. The motion was approved by voice vote with no "nay" votes.**

**\* Acknowledgment of past Board members:** Marty asked all past members of the Board of Directors in attendance to stand for recognition and he acknowledged and thanked all of them for their service and support of Ferry Beach. Ron Willett noted the contributions of the two Directors departing the Board as of this Annual Meeting – Caitlin Peale Sloan and Kathleen Dziadzio – and he presented them with commemorative gifts from the Board.

**\* Induction of Directors and Officers:**

Marty offered comments of support and encouragement for a successful new year and he led the current and new Directors in the reading of a commitment statement.

**\* Awards:** Marty announced the following special service awards and delivered commemorative gifts to each person: Phil Kinsler and Mugs Johnson for the Philanthropy Service Award and Pam Emery, Meghan Chan and Kathleen Dziadzio for Community Service. Award.

**ADJOURNMENT** was moved, duly seconded and approved at 2:45 p.m.

## **Marty Burgess, President**

Once again, we are still here! The tenacity for survival has been our hallmark these recent years. Staff continues to promote Ferry Beach resulting in expansion of programs reminiscent of the 'before time' of COVID. It is remarkable that we continue to grow in the face of such adversity. Now we are on the back side of the recent international crisis and moving forward with love, hope, and community.

While we are not fully recovered from the impact of COVID, we continue to make capital improvements (thanks to member donations and support), we are expanding the number and diversity of members aligned with our mission, to awaken hearts to explore, grow and renew the spirit of universal love. The off season is filling with conferences and the summer season continues to provide a wide range of opportunities for individuals and families.

In the early days, Ferry Beach was a small encampment of canvas tents and pit latrines, our Universalist founders spent the summers preaching the concept that GOD IS LOVE down in the Grove. The Eleanor B Forbes Chapel serves the Ferry Beach community and the local community. Over the decades Ferry Beach has provided a site for like-minded peoples to gather and celebrate the interconnected web of life we all enjoy.

Ferry Beach evolved from tents in the pines to hotel accommodations, full kitchen services and a diverse volunteer team led the assortment of conferences. Today we are hosting many groups that have joined us in our mission. Some provide their own content while others enjoy offerings presented by Ferry Beach. Our community investment in the Beach is seen all around us. Underwood dormitory, Rowland Hall, Cross Cottage, DeWolfe Dining Hall, Gitchell Porch, and the Metz village are some examples of major donations by individuals and families for use by membership. These investments added to and shaped opportunities for Ferry Beach to succeed as a retreat and conference center.

The physical location, buildings and campground has allowed us to become a regionally recognized resource. We have become a retreat and conference center hosting and providing programs for individuals, agencies, churches and intentional transient communities. They gather to renew their spirit of universal love. The diversity of our members has expanded. Spiritual connections, arts, social services, educational, and environmental groups have joined us in efforts to renew the spirit of universal love. Local banking institutions have given us financial support with grants and financial management guidance. We are again on track to develop year-round use of our campus.

Ferry Beach is active in local state and federal discussions regarding beach erosion and mitigation. We are the host site for environmental activist group gatherings. In the fall we will host the Save Our Shores Coastal Conference. This connection to our local community is vital for all of us. Ferry Beach has been a lead voice in the discussion and actions for dune preservation.

We have moved, over the decades, from a volunteer run organization to a hybrid system. Professional staff for operations and volunteers focused on policy and leading summer conferences. Each summer we have intentional communities gathering. Working together volunteers and staff provide a diverse selection of child, family, and adult conferences. During the off season the development of intentional repetitive communities is gaining traction. I am grateful for the efforts the leaders of both new and historical conferences provided in support of our mission.

We are no longer an isolated community that is unknown outside of our own community. There are many new partners with us in support of our mission to renew the spirit of universal love. We have evolved into

a retreat and conference center. Our beginning was based on love. As we move into the next phase of development including strategic planning, we remain committed to the core value of universal love.



# Nominating Committee Report

## Regarding the Slate of Officers:

The Committee nominates Beverly Olsen to the Treasurer position of the board of Directors for a three-year term.

Beverly Olsen lives in Saco Maine and is a Manager for United Health Care. She was on the board of the International Association of Rehabilitation Professionals and served as treasurer and president of the board. Bev also served in a staff capacity at the Unitarian Universalist Association. Bev has attended Ferry Beach through our local programming.

## Board of Directors:

The Committee nominates for a three-year term to the Board of Directors: Roberta Altamari who resides in Watertown Massachusetts and is a religious educator. She also served on the boards of LREDA and Advocates for Home Education. She served in a staff capacity at Ferry Beach several years ago and has also been a volunteer staff member for our youth camps as well as Religious Education week. Roberta has most recently served on the Ferry Beach board to fill a vacant position.

The Committee nominates for a three-year term to the Board of Directors: Nicolas Bloom, resident of Carlisle, Pennsylvania and a singer/songwriter and lecturer in history and literature. Nick regularly attends the Family and Friends conference. He has worked in a variety of leadership roles for the conference including intergenerational coordinator and songwriting workshop leader.

The Committee nominates for a three-year term to the Board of Directors: Mary Pat Donnellon, a resident of Old Orchard Beach. Mary Pat recently retired from an extensive career as a technology and marketing executive, including time working for Blackbaud, the premier not for profit software company. She has served in officer capacities on boards of the YWCA and the New School in Lancaster, PA as well as the Charleston Stage and the College of Charleston. Mary Pat has attended Ferry Beach through our local programming.

Key Revenue Actual Numbers	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Conferences	677,561	785,299	782,000	854,375	805,762	189,000	625,594
Shoulder Season Revenue	317,069	204,979	226,593	227,169	282,512	596	77,752
Donations to Ferry Beach	332,211	269,227	181,176	281,561	157,856	202,725	268,973
Store/Winter Revenue	16,140	31,620	36,877	37,055	60,603	28,000	38,507
Deposits for Next Year	42,800	41,000	36,877	37,055	60,603	28,000	65,000
Key Expenses Actual							
Key Expenses Actual							
Staffing	412,502	453,056	651,000	697,512	744,271	394,000	547,495
Food Service	351,658	334,278	235,485	169,954	179,385	30,348	114,590
Maint/Supplies	145,081	141,479	147,346	152,817	168,198	66,000	108,507
General Administration	331,130	319,622	306,768	128,009	92,816	62,321	77,199
Reserve	0	60,000	60,000	60,000	0	0	0
Capitalized Items	143,360	5,000	0	52,976	239,196	18,500	0

## **Executive Director's Report: Cathy Stackpole**

What a year: 2022!

In 2020, Ferry Beach was poised to shift our programming to year-round. 2020 was also the year to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage (only 100 years women could vote in the United States???) and 50 years for the Family and Friends Conference. Our current Executive Director was the first woman executive to be here longer than a year and the first LGBTQ representative in our 123 year old organization.

Two years after the great shut down, Ferry Beach had about 70% of summer activities but still less than 50% of September through May activities. Our occupancy rates have stayed about the same in the summer, but less people are staying within these rooms.

We made some wonderful strides in Philanthropy even though our Annual Auction slipped in its ability to meet its goal of 2021. (\$8000 as opposed to \$14,000). Our sustaining donor list continues to grow, and we brought in more than \$200,000 from individual donors. We applied for and received additional funds from the Employee Retention Credit program \$152,000 (CARES Act funds) and from several grant sources, \$31,000 in total. The Metz Family reached a milestone of \$50,000 for their maintenance/endowment fund they are creating for the Metz Village. And they are closing in on the families' goal is \$100,000 in 2023.

In programming we reduced the cost of summer conferences by at least \$100/person for everyone who came last summer. Year round we struggled with filling positions, particularly in food service and hospitality. We made some key relationship connections with the local Chambers, Hospitality Maine, the Maine Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and the Maine Department of Labor. We were featured on a local Maine television show highlighting our efforts in hiring persons with different abilities.

We are continuing to make new friends with organizations that are regional, local and state-wide. These groups have found a home at Ferry Beach and are grateful to have a place to build upon their vision and ours for a world that grows and renews the spirit of universal love. Included among these groups are: Crossroads, Volunteers of America, Sewall Foundation, Relearning Place, Holy Actor, Black Fly Writers group, Black women Writer's group, Rhett's Roost, Unity, Homestead Coop, CHIME, UNH Research group, UNE Senior (Aging) Program, and Maine Initiatives.

The silver lining to water pipes and sprinkler heads bursting in the Dining Room on Christmas Day were that we put in a new generator in the dining room. In the fall we will add insulation to the areas over the vestibule of the building. The dining room got a slight facelift because of the changes we had to make, most significantly in the foyer, and beverage area. While we had walls ripped apart, we also added another hand washing sink near the dish return window.

In all it was a very stressful year for our staff who shouldered through a series of crises, including getting COVID during our summer months. We are grateful and hopeful that the pandemic is in the rear-view mirror!

## We are very grateful for our 2022 Donors!

### 10,000-49,999

Margaret & Kevin  
Munroe  
Vernon Tessier\*  
Elizabeth McNab  
Paul Belyea

### 5,000-9,999

Nolan Stokes & Kathy  
Harman-Stokes  
Margaret Johnston &  
Philip Kinsler\*

### 2,500-4,999

Tom Allison  
Ron Willett\*  
Ann Pennell-Cimini  
Andrew & Maura  
Morse\*  
Bill Mitchell  
Lemuel Arnold

### 1,000-2,499

Ms. Meghan Chan\*  
George Brooks  
Elaine Pratt & Ken  
Arnold  
Virginia Crocker  
Cynthia Melcher &  
Dave Basler\*  
Francesca Elms\*  
Judy Chatman\*  
Joseph Ercolino\*  
Lorraine Adams\*  
Ruth Gitchell Rempt\*  
Cathy Stackpole &  
Pam Lassek\*  
Christine Krom\*  
Carolyn & John  
Hodges  
Caitlin Peale Sloan &  
Alex Sloan\*  
Paul & Judy  
Provencher\*  
Marty & Christine  
Burgess\*  
Ann Nozawa\*  
Gail Forsyth-Vail & P  
Stephen Vail\*  
Heather Sankey &  
Peter Schindelman\*  
Herschel V Beazley\*  
Jennifer Kelley\*

Kip Plaisted\*  
Michael & Kelly Scott\*  
Richard DeWolfe\*  
Fred, Cindy & Fred  
and Cindy Foster-  
Clark\*  
Pamela Bellino &  
Madelyn Rivera-  
Bellino\*  
Sidney & Lynette  
Gardner  
Bradley Cohen\*  
Judith Tator & April  
Gates  
Rebecca Robinson\*  
Scott LaFontsee  
William & Carol Metz

### 500-999

Rose Marie Petersen  
Ellenor Barish\*  
Peter & Joan  
Goldhammer\*  
Lucy Gendron &  
Richard Gendron  
Joline & Doug  
Edwards\*  
Brian Dustin  
Joel & Pam Ross\*  
Karen Goldsmith\*  
Karl & Kate Seeley\*  
Kathleen & Bob  
Dziadzio\*  
Maris Cornell\*  
Paul Lorenzo\*  
Pam Emery  
Donald Ricker  
John & Ginny  
Eastman  
Kimberly Schouweiler  
Mark Koenig & Troy  
Liston\*  
Ron McClelland  
Stephen & Carolee  
Fogg

### 250-499

Jeanette Ruyle\*  
Richard Hall & Carol  
Sue Hayden\*  
David Lewis  
Jim Peale & Carol  
McIntyre-Peale\*  
Lydia & George Gibb\*

Kenneth & Mary  
Feathers\*  
Viki Bridge\*  
Hillary Colt\*  
Jennifer Landry\*  
Joe & Nancy Madar\*  
Jude Lamb\*  
Susanne Colten-Carey  
& Lael & Emily  
Colten\*  
Judith Morse  
Alison, Gare &  
Rebecca Reid\*  
Carolyn Hart\*  
Jill & Dick Scobie  
Alicia Marsh\*  
Andrew Provencher\*  
Carol Rose Thompson  
& Chuck Scheffreen\*  
Dee Wilbur\*  
Jacque Schultz\*  
Kate Sullivan & Chad  
Hasson\*  
Laura Kaspro\*  
Mei-Fang Ricker  
Peter & Kris Gernert-  
Dott\*  
Philip Wise & Joe  
Law\*  
Randy Locke\*  
Rebecca Malloy\*  
Ruth Roper & Helen  
Loring\*  
Steve Bonavita\*  
Suzanne & Tony  
Federer\*  
Joyce Adams  
Elizabeth Cosgrove\*  
Tracey Jackson &  
Gymm Morey\*  
Nicole McGuire\*  
Paul Riechmann &  
Susan Hamlett\*  
Alan Shepard  
Ben, Kate, Kallan &  
Solomon Falls\*  
Cherry Bennett  
Elizabeth Merchant\*  
Ms. Marlaine  
Mahady-Potter  
Nancy Garretson  
Stevan Meek  
Susan Hall\*  
William Wilson\*

### 100-249

Juliana Fay\*  
David Sumner\*  
Donald Hayden\*  
Jeannette Duffau\*  
John & Ruthann  
Pearson\*  
Rev. Dr. Mark Doty\*  
Richard & Janet  
Plumb\*  
Tom Onacki\*  
Louise Marcoux &  
Jonathan Slavin\*  
Barbara Stroup\*  
Chris, Leslie, Nick &  
Alex Woodward\*  
Jeff Ingle & Robert  
Stratton  
Leslie Woodward\*  
Tom Konkoly  
Amy Farrell & John  
Bloom\*  
Andrew Peale\*  
Anne Ossanna\*  
Carolyn Cronin\*  
Cindy Baker & Bob  
Cohen\*  
Clyde Shinn\*  
Jane Hucks\*  
Karen Kashian\*  
Kelly Kilgallon  
Mary O'Sullivan\*  
Michael Howard,  
Valerie Carter &  
Emma Howard\*  
Nancy Cunningham  
Sandra Locke &  
Randy Locke Sr\*  
Thomas Comparin &  
Carolyn Conyers\*  
Verne McArthur  
Elisabeth Strelakovsky  
& Marina Hebeisen  
Jessie Washington  
Sadie Kahn-Greene\*  
Ann Fox\*  
Inez Folsom\*  
Kate, Ross, Fox, Rose  
& Violet Baldwin\*  
Linda Sullivan  
Mr. Clinton Tharp  
Teri Anderholm\*  
Fran Sharp & Phillip  
Ralli\*

Régis Langelier  
Sharon O'Brien\*  
Alan Flagg  
John Burt\*  
Marcia Reese\*  
Abigail Wertz\*  
Ann Hartman\*  
Carolyn Marshall\*  
Connie Dunn\*  
Margaret Oakland\*  
Stan Maricle\*  
William & Carolyn  
Bradley\*  
Bonnieta Kraft\*  
Roberta Altamari  
Mary Doyle  
Amy Ray Hood  
Barbara Cox  
Beth Grimmett  
Carmela Cannistraci  
Caroline Haines\*  
Charles Whitehead  
Dana Snyder-Grant  
Danielle, Ella & Wren  
D'Auria  
Denise VanVooren  
Elizabeth Weber  
Gail McCarthy  
Gary Nowacki  
Jim Levandoski  
Joe and Lauren Ortiz  
Jonathan Hollander  
Kate Gillis\*  
Laurie and Wayne  
Loosigian  
Mary Ann Latter\*  
Mary-Ellen Gilbane  
Melissa Homer  
Michele Proctor  
P Alex Graham  
Pamela Parziale  
Regine Tillmanns  
Sam Sherman\*  
Stephen Silverman  
Thomas Williamson  
Wilmot Winslow

\* INDICATES  
SUSTAINING  
DONOR

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<b>Key Expenses Actual</b>								
Staffing	412,502	453,056	651,000	697,512	744,271	394,000	547,495	691827
Food Service	351,658	334,278	235,485	169,954	179,385	30,348	114,590	12402-
Maint/Supplies General Administration	145,081	141,479	147,346	152,817	168,198	66,000	108,507	158260
Reserve	331,130	319,622	306,768	128,009	92,816	62,321	77,199	81880
Capitalized Items	0	60,000	60,000	60,000	0	0	0	0
*Conferences Year Round	143,360	5,000	0	52,976	239,196	18,500	0	0